

Remarks:

Applicants have carefully studied the final Examiner's Action mailed 06/20/2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire 09/20/2005, and all references cited therein. The amendment appearing above and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Applicants respond to the outstanding Action by centered headings and numbered paragraphs that correspond to the centered headings and paragraph numbering employed by the Office, to ensure full response on the merits to each finding of the Office.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. Applicants thank the Office for entering the submission received 04/13/05.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

2. Applicants acknowledge the quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
3. Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford in view of Cockerell. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested in view of the amendments made herein because claim 1 as currently amended includes the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 3. Claim 7 depends from claim 1, currently amended, and is allowable as a matter of law upon the allowance of said claim 1.
4. Applicant acknowledges the Office's comments concerning the Ford and Cockerell disclosures.
5. Applicant acknowledges the Office's comments concerning the elliptical shape of the air scoop.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 3-6 and 8-10 are objected to but indicated as being in condition for allowance if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As currently amended, claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of now-cancelled claim 3. Dependent claims 4-10 are therefore in condition for allowance as well.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants acknowledge the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

8. If the Office is not fully persuaded as to the merits of Applicants' position, or if an Examiner's Amendment would place the pending claims in condition for allowance, a telephone call to the undersigned at (727) 507-8558 is requested. Applicants thank the Office for its careful examination of this important patent application.

Very respectfully,

SMITH & HOPEN

By:



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Dated: June 28, 2005

pc: Commander Robert L. Wheeler, USN, retired
Mr. Walter Crowley

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
(37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment C, including Introductory Comments, Amendments to the Claims and Remarks, is being transmitted by facsimile to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Group Art Unit 3617, Attn: Mr. Andrew D. Wright, (703) 872-9306 on June 28, 2005.

Dated: June 28, 2005


Deborah Preza